

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-18. (canceled).

19. (currently amended) A method for disinfecting the surface of an article comprising:

contacting said surface for a time of about 5 to 15 minutes with a composition comprising an effective amount of 1-(2-ethyl-hexyl)glycerol ether to disinfect said surface at a temperature from about 100°C ~~40°C~~ to about 150° C ~~80°C~~, wherein, said composition contacting said surface is not effective to disinfect said surface at 25°C for said time, said surface is inanimate.

20. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein said composition further comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of: a) additional agent; and b) auxiliary.

21. (previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein said additional agent is citric acid.

22. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein said composition contains no aromatic alcohol.

23. (previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein said additional agent comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of: a) aldehydes; b) amines; c) phenols; d) halogen compounds; e) carboxylic acids; and f) aromatic alcohols.

24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein said aromatic alcohol comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of: a) o-phenylphenol; b) triclosan; c) o-phthalaldehyde; d) Lonzabac 12; and e) Lonzabac LF.

25. (previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein said auxiliary comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of: a) aldehydes; b) amines; c) phenols; d) halogen compounds; e) carboxylic acids; f) wetting agents; g) cleaning components; h) corrosion inhibitors; i) nonionic surfactants; j) anionic surfactants; k) amphoteric surfactants; l) buffers; m) acids; n) alkalizing agents; o) perfumes; p) dyes; q) salts; r) indicators; s) markers; t) complexing agents; and u) antifoams.

26. (previously presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein said auxiliary comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of: a) sodium chloride; b) o-phenylphenol; c) triclosan; d) o-phthalaldialdehyde; e) Lonzabac 12; f) Lonzabac LF; g) sodium benzoate; and h) sodium hydroxide.

27. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein said composition is in the form of an aqueous solution.

28. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, further comprising:

obtaining an anhydrous form of said composition; and
diluting said anhydrous form with water to form said composition.

29-33. (cancelled)

34. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 45 to about 60°C.

35. (previously presented) The method according to claim 34, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 45 to about 55°C.

36. (previously presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein said temperature is about 50°C.

37. (previously presented) A method for disinfecting the surface of an article comprising:

contacting said surface for a time with a composition comprising an effective amount of 1-(2-ethyl-hexyl)glycerol ether to disinfect said surface at an elevated pressure and a temperature from about 40°C to about 170°, wherein,

said composition contacting said surface is not effective to disinfect said surface at 25°C for said time, and said surface is inanimate.

38. (previously presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 80 to about 160°C.

39. (previously presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 100 to about 150°C.

40. (previously presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 120 to 140°C.

41. (previously presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 130 to 135°C.

42. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein said surface is wetted, sprayed, rubbed, wiped or moistened with the composition.

43. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein said surface is dipped into the composition.

44. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein said surface is disinfected by atomizing the composition.

45. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein said surface to be disinfected comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of: a) metal; b) glass; c) wood; d) plastic; e) textile; and f) ceramic.

46. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein said article to be disinfected is at least one device selected from the group consisting of: a) medical instrument; b) laboratory apparatus; c) thermolabile materials; and d) thermostable materials.

47. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein said article to be disinfected is at least one device selected from the group consisting of: a) bottle; b) air-conditioning system; c) membrane; d) ion exchanger; e) cooling water circulation; and f) endoscope.

48. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein said time is in the range of from about 10 seconds to about 1 hour.

49. (previously presented) The method according to claim 48, wherein said range is from about 1 minute to about 30 minutes.

50. (previously presented) The method according to claim 49, wherein said range is from about 5 to about 15 minutes.

51. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, further comprising:

obtaining a concentrate form of said composition, said concentrate having from about 1 to about 20% by weight of said glycerol ether; and

diluting said concentrate with water to form said composition.

52. (previously presented) The method according to claim 51, wherein said amount of glycerol ether is from about 2 to about 10% in said concentrate.

53. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein said composition further comprises about 80% or more of water by weight.

54. (previously presented) The method according to claim 53, wherein said composition comprises from about 89.5% to about 99.45% water by weight.

55. (previously presented) The method according to claim 54, wherein said composition comprises from about 94.9% to about 98.9% water by weight.

56. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, further comprising:

obtaining a concentrate form of said composition, said concentrate comprising up to about 40% of water by weight; and

diluting said concentrate with water to form said composition.

57. (previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein said composition comprises: a) from about 0.01 to about 1.0% of glycerol ether by weight as said effective amount; and b) from about 0.1 to about 15% of at least one additional agent by weight.

58. (previously presented) The method according to claim 57, wherein said composition comprises: a) from about 0.025 to about 0.5% of glycerol ether by weight as said effective amount, and b) from about 0.5 to about 10% of at least one additional agent by weight.

59. (previously presented) The method according to claim 58, wherein said composition comprises about 0.1% of said glycerol ether by weight as said effective amount of the total composition.

60. (previously presented) The method according to claim 56, wherein said concentrate is diluted so that said composition comprises from about 94.5 to about 99.725% by weight water.

61. (previously presented) The method according to claim 60, wherein said composition comprises from about 97.8 to about 99.45% by weight water.

62. (previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein said composition further comprises: c) a salt.

63. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein said composition has a pH in the range of from about 3 to about 10.

64-65. (cancelled)

66. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein said composition disinfects at least one component selected from the group consisting of: a) bacteria; b) yeasts; c) molds; d) mycobacteria; e) viruses; f) propionibacteria (*Propionibacterium acnes*); g) dandruff-causing microbes (*Malassezia furfur*); h) prions; i) odour-causing microorganisms; j) lower harmful organisms; k) protozoa; l) pores; and m) fungi.

67. (previously presented) A process for the disinfection of an article comprising the steps of:

- i) cleaning said article with a neutral cleaner;
- ii) disinfecting of said article by thermochemical disinfection with a composition comprising an effective amount of 1-(2-ethyl-hexyl) glycerol ether and at least one aromatic alcohol for an operating time, said composition not being capable of disinfecting said article for said operating time absent thermochemical disinfection;
- iii) rinsing said article with cold water; and
- iv) drying said article.

68. (previously presented) The process according to claim 67, further comprising the step of precleaning said article with cold water before step i).

69. (previously presented) The process according to claim 67, wherein said cleaning occurs at a temperature in the range of from about 55 to about 60°C.

70. (previously presented) The process according to claim 67, wherein said cleaning occurs at a temperature of about 93°C.

71. (previously presented) The process according to claim 67, wherein said disinfection occurs at an operating temperature in the range of from about 55 to about 60°C.

72. (previously presented) The process according to claim 67, wherein said disinfection occurs at an operating temperature in the range of from about 90 to about 100°C.

73. (previously presented) The process according to claim 72, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 90 to about 95°C.

74. (previously presented) The process according to claim 67, wherein said drying occurs at an operating temperature of from about 40 to about 60°C.

75. (previously presented) The process according to claim 67, wherein said operating time of from about 1 to about 20 minutes.